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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 09/701,791 | 01/19/2001 | Eiichi Tazawa | 74457/07588 | 8493 |
| 33356 | 7590 | 06/08/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| SoCAL IP LAW GROUP LLP 310 N. WESTLAKE BLVD. STE 120 WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91362 | | | FIORILLA, CHRISTOPHER A | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 1734 | | |

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/701,791 | TAZAWA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Michelle A Lazor | 1734 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 7-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 2,3 and 7-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art, Nakamura ("Recent Cements"; Concrete Products, Industry and Products No. 53, p. 42 - 53) and Kushida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4774045).

The admitted prior art discloses manufacturing chemically pre-stressed components, which comprise molding concretes formed by kneading a cement composition (page 7, lines 17 – 18) containing a cement and an expansive additive (page 1, line 24 – page 2, line 4), but does not specifically disclose curing the same underwater in high temperature high pressure curing water at over 100°C. However, Nakamura discloses curing using high temperature high pressure curing water at over 100°C. (English translation page 3, lines 5 – 21 or equivalently page 43, paragraph 2) and Kushida et al. disclose curing treatments to include curing underwater or curing with steam (column 4, lines 5 – 14). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use high temperature high pressure curing water at over 100°C to promote hardening of the concrete (English translation page 1, lines 26 – 29 or equivalently page 42, paragraph 1). Moreover using the high temperature water would promote rapid curing of the cement composition because cement curing times are known to decrease with an increase in

temperature. In addition, it would have been obvious to cure the concrete underwater as an equivalent alternative to curing with steam.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2, 3, and 7 – 16 are allowed for reasons outlined in the non-final office action mailed 1/20/04.

Response to Arguments

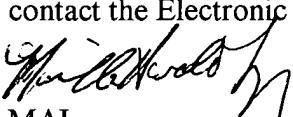
4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle A Lazor whose telephone number is 571-272-1232. The examiner can normally be reached on Thurs - Fri 5:45 - 4:15.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on 571-272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MAL
1/27/05


CHRIS FIORILLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
AU 1734